

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-01 PRS-01 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00

RSC-01 EB-03 /039 W
----- 103394

P R 231515Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7170
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 2650

LIMDIS

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR SHERER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, CZ, US
SUBJECT: CLAIMS AGREEMENT: CHAT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

1. DURING AIRPORT WELCOMING CEREMONY FOR YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTER, FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK SOUGHT OUT CHARGE TO ASK HOW THINGS WERE GOING ON THE LONG-GRAVEL AMENDMENT. HE SPENT ALL THE REST OF HIS TIME WITH THE YUGOSLAVS, SO IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT HE HAD A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THE US SITUATION.

2. CHNOUPEK MENTIONED OCTOBER 19 WEINTRAUB ARTICLE IN WASHPOST (STATE 232181) AND INQUIRED INTO CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE. CHARGE FURNISHED SUCH NEWS AS HE HAD (INCLUDING FORTHCOMING DEAL VISIT, WHICH HE SAID WOULD GIVE US A CHANCE TO HEAR THE LATEST NEWS FROM WASHINGTON) AND SAID WE HAD HEARD SOME FAINTLY ENCOURAGING WORD OUT OF WASHINGTON IN RECENT DAYS. CHARGE SAID ATTITUDES NOW SEEMED TO BE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC, AND HE FELT SURE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND OTHERS WERE DOING THEIR BEST TO CONVINCE THE CONGRESS OF THE NEED TO DO WITHOUT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT.

3. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS ON OCTOBER 21 OPENING OF PROGRESS AND ENVIRONMENT EXHIBIT IN BRATISLAVA, ZANTOVSKY
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(HEAD SIXTH DEPARTMENT) SAID CHNOUPEK, UPON HIS RETURN FROM

LATIN AMERICA OCTOBER 20, HAD MADE CLEAR PRIORITY HE GAVE THIS MATTER. ZANOTVSKY SAID (PRESUMABLY SOMETHING HE HAD SAID IN WASHINGTON BEFORE, BUT WE HAD NOT HEARD IT SPECIFICALLY) THAT IF CLAIMS AGREEMENT FELL THROUGH AGAIN, HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FIVE TO TEN YEARS BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS COULD EVEN START ONCE MORE.

PERRY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, DEBT AGREEMENTS, LONG-GRAVEL AMENDMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PRAGUE02650
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740303-0904
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741023/aaaaatga.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <23-Sep-2002 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CLAIMS AGREEMENT: CHAT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, CZ, US, (CHNOUPEK, BOHUSLAV)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005